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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit: 1636
Examiner: R. Schwartzman

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 08/915,004
Filed: August 20, 1997
Title: Novel Proteins and Methods for Producing the Proteins
Applicants: Goto *et al.*
Atty. Docket: 16991.010

Sir:

**Applicants' Inquiry Concerning Continued Suspension
of Action by the Examiner Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.103 and MPEP 709**

Pursuant to a communication mailed March 21, 2001, the period of suspension for the above-referenced application has remained in effect due to a potential interference.

On July 31, 2002, Applicants submitted an inquiry requesting a status update of this application. A second inquiry requesting a status update of this application was filed on October 7, 2002. To date, a response to Applicant's requests has not been received by the undersigned. Therefore, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the Examiner in charge of this case provide a status update to the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew S. Brenc (Reg. No. 45,534)